

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 12
By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to designate a certain bridge on State Route 385 in Shelby County as the "Elizabeth Yancey Griffin Memorial Bridge".

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary citizens who during their lifetimes contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Elizabeth Yancey Griffin of Arlington was most assuredly one such meritorious public servant deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Griffin molded young people's minds and morals as an elementary teacher for thirty years, teaching at Brunswick, Bolton, Barret's Chapel and Moscow; and

WHEREAS, a strong proponent of regular church attendance, Mrs. Griffin rarely missed church on Sundays, and for 55 years she played the piano and organ at Chambers Chapel United Methodist Church in Lakeland; and

WHEREAS, this fine lady made sure that flowers were placed in the church for special occasions and holidays, and she kept the minister informed of parishioners who were in the hospital or who were celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her robust faith in the Lord and her religious activities, Mrs. Griffin volunteered for almost two decades at Methodist Hospitals, performing such duties as following up on discharged patients and working in the gift shop; and

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WHEREAS, her extraordinary gift for giving was appropriately recognized on numerous occasions: in 1988, Mrs. Griffin was one of three persons to receive the Methodist Hospitals Foundation's "Living Award", and in 1992, the UMC's Memphis McKendree District of 25 Churches selected her as an "unsung hero"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Griffin was a director of the Shelby County Farm Bureau for twenty years and past chair of the Shelby County Farm Bureau Women; she received the Leonard J. Kerr Award for outstanding leadership in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, a vital part of her community, Mrs. Griffin's lifelong motto was: "Your talents are your gift back to God for the gift of life He gave you"; and

WHEREAS, the land upon which this certain bridge in Shelby County is constructed was purchased by the state from Mrs. Griffin and her brother-in-law; this farmland was originally bought by her husband of forty years, the late William L. Griffin and his brother, Jack Griffin in 1957; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 1995, Mrs. Griffin tragically lost her life in an automobile accident at the construction site of this bridge; and

WHEREAS, because of these remarkable circumstances, Mrs. Griffin's daughters, Sue Griffin Morrisson and Betty Griffin Axton, have expressed a desire to name this bridge as a tribute to their mother, a compassionate and caring lady whose every endeavor epitomized the true spirit of Tennessee volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly most heartily concur with their excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the bridge spanning U.S. Highway 70 (State Route 1) on State Route 385 (Paul Barret Parkway) in Shelby County is hereby designated as the "Elizabeth Yancey Griffin

Memorial Bridge” in commemoration of this outstanding citizen’s life of purpose and commitment to God, family and community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge as the “Elizabeth Yancey Griffin Memorial Bridge”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mrs. Griffin’s family, with the final three resolving clauses omitted from such copies.